(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its effect of functioning of the Department; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department was allowed to fill up only 1/3rd of the total vacant posts as per DOP&T's instructions issued *vide* O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, which imposes abolition of 2/3rd of the total vacant posts on filling up direct recruitment vacancies. Due to the difficulties faced regarding manpower, the Department had approached the Government for exemption from the above-said O.M. As a result of this, 3300 posts have been allocated to the Department.

(c) Action for filling up of these 3300 posts as per rules has already been initiated.

Fraudulent practice of taking loans by Foreign Nationals

†2938. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some foreign nationals, after getting Indian citizenship fraudulently, are sending a large sum of money taken from banks as loans to foreign countries;

(b) whether such people are staying back in India even after the expiry of their visa; and

(c) whether it is not necessary for the foreigners coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Singapore to get visa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.